REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's request for a citation of a Kameleon AV Modular System brochure on a PTO-1449, along with publication data, Applicants are submitting herewith a PTO-1449, which cites a two-page Kameleon AV Modular System brochure, and which encloses a copy of such brochure. The brochure indicates a copyright date of 2001.

Applicants have reviewed the Official Action mailed 18 November 2009, and believe that, as amended, Claims 1-24 patentably distinguish over the art of record for the reasons given below.

Before proceeding to address the rejection, Applicants will briefly summarize their invention to assist the Examiner in better appreciating the differences between Applicants' invention and the art of record. Applicants' invention, as recited in Claim 1, concerns a processing apparatus that includes a first module having a controller capable of performing one of a plurality of signal processing schemes. Upon coupling a second module to the first module, the controller associated with the first module will determine an input-output characteristic of the second module and will select a signal-processing scheme in accordance with that input-output coupling characteristic.

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejection of Claims 1-24

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,188,381, to Van der Wal et al. in view of US 2006/0026637 to Gatto et al. and US 2002/0008779 to Ju et al.

Van der Wal et al. shows a modular video processing system using a processing motherboard 10, and plural video processor motherboards 20. However, Van der Wal et al. does not show or suggest:

> *"said controller comprising means for determining said input output*
> *signal coupling characteristic of said second module, and means for*
> *selecting, from said plurality of signal processing characteristics stored in*
> *said non-volatile memory, a signal processing characteristic for said*
> *signal processor"*,

as specifically set forth in the amended Claim 1.

Furthermore, Van der Wal et al. does not show or suggest:

> *"said controller comprising means for determining said second signal*
> *processing characteristic of said second module, and means for retrieving*
> *from said plurality of processing characteristics stored in said memory, a*
> *processing characteristic for said signal processor in accordance with*
> *said determined signal processing characteristic of said second module",*

as specifically recited in the amended Claim 12.

Similarly, Van der Wal et al. does not show or suggest:

> *"said controller comprising means for accessing, in accordance with a*
> *signal from said network interface, from a plurality of characteristics*
> *stored in said memory, a characteristic specific to said processing*
> *apparatus",*

as specifically set forth in the amended Claim 15.

Van der Wal et al. also does not show or suggest:

> *"storing a signal processing characteristic for each of said available*
> *functions; and,*
> *enabling access to at least a predetermined one of said plurality of signal*
> *processing characteristics, all remaining ones of said plurality of signal*
> *processing characteristics being non-accessible,*
> *subsequent to said storing and enabling steps, said signal processing*
> *apparatus being operable only with said at least predetermined one of*
> *said plurality of signal processing characteristics",*

as specifically recited in Claim 21.

Gatto et al. relates to an interactive TV device which simultaneously processes multiple broadband input streams. Gatto et al. does not show or suggest:

> *"said controller comprising means for determining said input output signal*
> *coupling characteristic of said second module, and means for selecting, from said*
> *plurality of signal processing characteristics stored in said non-volatile memory,*
> *a signal processing characteristic for said signal processor",*

as specifically set forth in the amended Claim 1.

Furthermore, Gatto et al. does not show or suggest:

"said controller comprising means for determining said second signal processing characteristic of said second module, and means for retrieving from said plurality of processing characteristics stored in said memory, a processing characteristic for said signal processor in accordance with said determined signal processing characteristic of said second module",

as specifically recited in the amended Claim 12.

Similarly, Gatto et al. does not show or suggest:

"said controller comprising means for accessing, in accordance with a signal from said network interface, from a plurality of characteristics stored in said memory, a characteristic specific to said processing apparatus",

as specifically set forth in the amended Claim 15.

Gatto et al. also does not show or suggest:

"storing a signal processing characteristic for each of said available functions; and,
enabling access to at least a predetermined one of said plurality of signal processing characteristics, all remaining ones of said plurality of signal processing characteristics being non-accessible,
subsequent to said storing and enabling steps, said signal processing apparatus being operable only with said at least predetermined one of said plurality of signal processing characteristics",

as specifically recited in Claim 21.

Ju et al. relates to an audio/video system with function-extending modules. Each module controls itself. Ju et al. does not show or suggest:

"said controller comprising means for determining said input output signal coupling characteristic of said second module, and means for selecting, from said plurality of signal processing characteristics stored in said non-volatile memory, a signal processing characteristic for said signal processor",

as specifically set forth in the amended Claim 1.

Furthermore, Ju et al. does not show or suggest:

*"said controller comprising means for determining said second signal
processing characteristic of said second module, and means for retrieving
from said plurality of processing characteristics stored in said memory, a
processing characteristic for said signal processor in accordance with
said determined signal processing characteristic of said second module",*

as specifically recited in the amended Claim 12.

Similarly, Ju et al. does not show or suggest:

*"said controller comprising means for accessing, in accordance with a
signal from said network interface, from a plurality of characteristics
stored in said memory, a characteristic specific to said processing
apparatus",*

as specifically set forth in the amended Claim 15.

Finally, Ju et al. also does not show or suggest:

*"storing a signal processing characteristic for each of said available
functions; and,
enabling access to at least a predetermined one of said plurality of signal
processing characteristics, all remaining ones of said plurality of signal
processing characteristics being non-accessible,
subsequent to said storing and enabling steps, said signal processing
apparatus being operable only with said at least predetermined one of
said plurality of signal processing characteristics",*

as specifically recited in Claim 21.

It is therefore clear that even if the disclosures of the three cited references were
to be combined, the patentability of independent Claims 1, 12 15 and 21 would not be
affected.

Claims 2-11 are dependent from Claim 1 and add further advantageous features.
Applicants submit that these dependent claims are patentable as set forth above for Claim
1.

Claims 13 and 14 are dependent from Claim 12 and add further advantageous
features. Applicants submit that these dependent claims are patentable as set forth above
for Claim 12.

Claims 16-20 are dependent from Claim 15 and add further advantageous features. Applicants submit that these dependent claims are patentable as set forth for Claim 15.

Claims 22-24 are dependent from Claim 21 and add further advantageous features. Applicants submit that these dependent claims are patentable as set forth for Claim 21.

Applicants therefore submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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